

the first fruit of the divine benediction upon the marriage of our son the Dauphin. We shall receive with pleasure the testimonies of your sentiments for us on this occasion, and we shall be very glad to embrace every opportunity of giving you fresh proofs of the esteem and particular affection we have for your Republic. Whereupon we pray God to have your most dear and grand friends, allies and confederates, under his holy protection. Done at Versailles the 27th August, 1750. Your good friend, ally and confederate,

BRULANT.

Extract of a Letter from Madrid, August 26.

"Within these few days the Cardinal Infant has taken several trips to the queen dowager at St. Ildefonso; from whence the Public conclude there is some truth in the report that that prince intends to quit the church, and lie in readiness to catch some great temporal dignity, which, through a change of affairs, may become vacant. It is certain that several courtiers have of late been dispatched from hence to Rome, and 'tis pretended that their dispatches are relative to the turning a lay-cardinal archbishop into a mere layman, by the help of a certain writing or instrument, called a dispensation; a thing which Heretics understand just as well as Catholics, and find the benefit of, in certain cases."

Hugue, Sept. 17. We have advice from Breslau, of the 8th; that a fire broke out there the night before, by which the house where the king lodged, and six others, were consumed to ashes. His majesty was in some danger, but escaped without any hurt.

Our letters from Hanover inform us, that the earl of Albemarle having, pursuant to the instructions sent him by the lords of the regency, enquired of the marquis de Puyfieux the destination of the French squadron that lately put to sea, the marquis assured his excellency, *That it was only to exercise the seamen, and that it would speedily return to Brest.*

Paris, Sept. 19. By a ship at Havre de Grace, we hear, that the city of Quebec in Canada has had a very narrow escape. A house near the powder magazine was set on fire by lightning, but the fire was very fortunately soon extinguished; otherwise the whole town would have been destroyed by the explosion of the magazine.

Letter from Barbadoes, July 12.

"We are generally alarm'd here, to find that London is in a fair way of losing the Gold Coast trade, and that the French will certainly by degrees get it out of our hands. That the separate traders never intend to preserve it, we have had a long and fatal experience of. Our estates in this island begin to be an incumbrance, for want of a proper stock of slaves; for we find it more and more difficult than ever to keep it up with the trash we are forced to purchase. The greatest part of those now brought to us, being such as eat snakes, rats, &c. When a horse or beast dies, we are obliged to set a watch where they are buried, to hinder these cannibals from digging them up to eat; and yet, notwithstanding all our care, it has been often done, and do it they will, at the hazard of their lives; for many of them have been killed outright by feeding on such carrion; and more especially so, when the cattle have died of contagious distempers, which too often happens in our islands. They are great thieves, and perverse in their nature: They rob the negroes houses, and destroy their pigs and fowls; which is so discouraging to the more industrious ones formerly brought from the Gold Coast, that we are obliged often to repair their losses, to keep them in temper. In short, to have to do with them at all, is only tiresome and perplexing, but highly destructive to the laborious planter."

This is the true reason of the annual decrease of negroes throughout the island, and occasions the great expence of hired labour that you complain of. It is but seldom that seasoned negroes are to be purchased; and when they are sold, it is at such prices that you have never heard of. A few were sold at outcry at Ostin's town some little time past, when there was such bidding one above another, that negro men sold at 112*l.* a head, and women from 75*l.* to 85*l.* a head, and these were only common field negroes. This sad prospect, with respect to the Guinea trade, together with that consummate open and illicit one carried on between North-America and the French and Dutch islands in this part of the world, will, I plainly discover, soon ruin all the sugar colonies of Great Britain. The illicit trade never flourished so much as at present, and drains us all of every penny of our current cash. The New-England men will sell their cargoes for nothing else, which they carry to Surinam and St. Eustatia, to purchase sugar, rum and molasses.

And I am credibly informed, that from that one single island of Antigua, 300,000*l.* have been carried away for that very purpose in the space of a few months; so that they have hardly enough left for the common uses of life."

L O N D O N

From the Remembrancer, of September 1.

To our C O U N T R Y M E N.

"As it has been demonstrated, that foreigners of different nations, gain'd, during a long course of years, above two millions sterling per annum, by fishing in the British seas."

Query: Whether wisdom, whether justice, whether humanity, do not call loudly upon us, to second the patriot views of parliament, by promoting, one and all, our sheltered Herring Fishery (whose beginnings are so successful), as we thereby may (among other advantages), prodigiously increase our naval power and the national wealth; and find employment for all the poor in these kingdoms?"

Sept. 7. Letters from Bastia advise, that the French troops in Corsica are making such dispositions as indicate a design to pass the winter in that island; the affairs of which will probably be never settled, 'till it falls into the hands of France, or some princes of the house of Bourbon.

By a private letter from Perthshire we have an account, that the subscriptions to the chamber of Montrose, towards carrying on the Herring Fishery, already amount to 10,000*l.* sterling.

We hear by some of the Norway ships lately arrived in the river, that just before they sailed from thence, a very dreadful fire happened at Dram, which seduced almost the whole town to ashes.

Several letters from Spain say, that there were great commotions amongst the inhabitants of Andalusia, many of whom, with their families, were about to quit the province, on account of the scarcity of corn; some people having ingross'd it in large quantities on purpose to enhance the price; which being represented to the king, his majesty, in order to put a speedy stop to the same, ordered 100,000*l.* sterling to be distributed amongst the people, which had a very good effect.

They write from Gloucester, that on Sunday the 23 instant, they had the most violent storm of rain, attended with thunder and lightning, ever known in the memory of man. It began near five o'clock, and in three or four hours time, the brooks thereabouts were so swollen, that it was not safe either to come into, or go out of the city. At the cross the water got to such a height, that the parish church of St. Michael, whilst the minister was reading prayers, was much flooded, as were most of the cellars in the town; and that in short, a continued stream, as it were, ran throughout the streets.

And from Stroud and Painswick we have accounts of a similar nature, where the inundation was so great, and the current so rapid, that nothing could withstand the force: Some people had thirty tons of coal washed away; others had their furnaces carried out of the stacks, and stones for holding water, to a considerable distance; a bridge called Dudbridge, was likewise forced up. Upon the whole, the damage occasioned by this storm is computed at several thousand pounds.

An Extract of a Letter from the West-Riding in Yorkshire.

Wool at our markets is considerably fallen, and it is hoped by all well wishers to their country, that it will have the same turn in every place where the woollen manufacture is carried on; as nothing is more advantageous to the nation, than rendering our woollens cheaper at foreign markets than our neighbours; nor any thing more pernicious than engrossing the wool, in order to enhance the price; by which the industrious manufacturer cannot get at it on reasonable terms. By the best calculations there has been a larger clip throughout the nation this year, than has ever been known.

Sept. 14. As robberies on the highway, and in the streets of London and Westminster, are become much more frequent than they formerly were, the committers of them having been greatly encouraged by the almost continual pardons procured for them, by the application of persons of eminence and distinction, we hear it is now resolved, that no application for the future will be regarded, unless previous to it, the suitors have made amends for all the damages the convicts had before done, and do enter into security with the government for their good behaviour for the remainder of their lives.

Sept.